



March 12, 2007

(Online at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/enewsletter.htm>)

2007 Brings Added Focus on Climate Change and Ocean Health

The success of last year's climate change legislation (AB 32) changed the debate in Sacramento and across the state. Californians have never been more focused on our environment than we are today. We're learning quickly how important it is to expand the climate change discussion to include preparing for future impacts, while also working today to reduce consumption that results in global warming. Water conservation is a key strategy in the fight, since pumping, purifying, flushing and treating water consumes massive energy in California.

We also know the Pacific Ocean is under attack from pollution, over-fishing, invasive species and the threat of oil spills. The stakes are high and a multi-faceted approach is needed—one that invests in innovation as well as proven strategies.

I have introduced two multi-bill legislative packages designed to address climate change and ocean health. In the months ahead, I look forward to the opportunity to work with you to craft these bills for successful passage and eventual approval by the governor.

Climate change bill package [press release](#).

Ocean health bill package [press release](#).

John's [op-ed](#) on going greener in 2007.

Otter-saving 2006 Income Tax Check-off

Thanks to [AB 2485](#), Californians now have the option of helping save the California Sea Otter when filing their 2006 income tax forms via a new [voluntary contribution option](#) on Form 540.

John in the District

3/16 United Way Victory Celebration, Santa Cruz

3/16 Silicon Valley Leadership Group Breakfast Roundtable, Palo Alto

4/20 Monterey County City Managers Meeting, Fort Ord

4/20 San Andreas Regional Center Annual Legislative Lunch, Aptos

4/21 Cabrillo College Social Justice Conference

State Budget Update

Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearings are underway. [Click here for hearing schedules](#).

For up-to-date reports and analysis by the Assembly Budget Committee and non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office, visit the [State Budget page](#) of my Website.

Recent Accolades

CA Community College



Assembly Speaker Núñez joins with John to honor Judy Darnell as 27th Assembly District Woman of the Year

Children's Healthcare Advocate Judy Darnell Named Woman of the Year

“Known for years at the local level as a tireless advocate for children and healthcare, Judy is now lending her well-known optimism and resolve to the issue of securing health insurance for every kid in California,” said Assemblymember Laird. “Children’s healthcare has taken the stage this year as a top issue in Sacramento, so it’s an honor to call Judy a partner and an inspiration both at home on the Central coast and in the State Capitol.”

More from the [press release](#).

Profiles of Judy in the [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#) and [Good Times](#) newsweekly.
John’s [Op-Ed](#) on universal children’s health coverage.

Update: UC Growth Planning

The [Laird-requested](#) Legislative Analyst’s [report](#) has been completed and resulted in a hearing to explore the findings with UC and LAO representatives. Following the hearing, John sent UC a number of follow up questions designed to help guide the state budget process this year.

[Audio clips](#) from the hearing.

[Video clips](#) from the hearing.

[Op-ed](#) outlining John’s questions for UC.

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System—*Friend of CA Community Colleges Award*

CALPIRG, the consumer advocate—*earned 100% score for 2006 legislative session*

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